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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: Reactivation of OXCART

1. In response to an informal request from your office, I have reviewed the problems associated with withdrawing a limited number of the OXCART vehicles from storage. The purpose would be to provide a better quality photographic product utilizing the OXCART Type I camera as opposed to the SR-71 Optical Bar camera. This office has no way of substantiating whether the OXCART system is better for your purposes and, therefore, that judgment must be left to your office and NPIC.

2. The following table shows the cost associated with this project as well as the length of time it would require from authority to proceed and until the OXCART vehicle could actually arrive over a target. While the figures show an annual cost, anything less than twelve months would not be an appreciable savings since the majority of the money is spent during the initial months:

- a. One aircraft,
- b. Two aircraft,
- c. Three aircraft,

These figures include only the costs directly associated with maintaining and operating the aircraft

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These figures do not include additional costs such as pilots' salaries, TDY funds, base facilities, etc.

3. If your analysis shows the OXCART imagery to be an improvement over the SR-71, then the next step would be for OSA to launch a detailed examination of all of the supporting assets of the OXCART system. It is known that some of these assets have been used in other programs. A detailed inspection and accounting must be made before we can finalize exact costs and aircraft availability dates.

DONALD H. STEININGER
Assistant Deputy Director
for
Science and Technology

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